

## **MINUTES**

### **MONTANA SENATE 59th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION**

#### **COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES**

**Call to Order:** By **CHAIRMAN MIKE WHEAT**, on April 11, 2005 at 5:00 P.M., in Room 102 Capitol.

#### **ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:**

Sen. Mike Wheat, Chairman (D)  
Sen. Jim Elliott (D)  
Sen. Jeff Mangan (D)  
Sen. Glenn Roush (D)  
Sen. Don Ryan (D)  
Sen. Ken Toole (D)

**Members Excused:** None.

**Members Absent:** None.

**Staff Present:** Annie Glover, Committee Secretary

**Please Note.** These are summary minutes. Testimony and discussion are paraphrased and condensed.

**Committee Business Summary:**

Hearing & Date Posted: None.  
Executive Action: None.

**SEN. WHEAT** stated that the Committee needed to assign two Democrats and two Republicans to the Legislative Council. He explained that he had spoken with Minority Leadership. **SEN. KEENAN** gave **SEN. WHEAT** the names of three Senators interested in this committee.

**Motion:** **SEN. WHEAT** moved that **SEN. GEBHARDT, SEN. BARKUS, SEN. COCCHIARELLA AND SEN. HARRINGTON BE NOMINATED TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.**

**Motion/Vote:** **SEN. ELLIOTT** moved that **THE NOMINATIONS BE CLOSED.** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

**Motion/Vote:** **SEN. ELLIOTT** moved that **THOSE NOMINATED BE ELECTED.** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

**SEN. ROUSH** asked that the Committee review who had been selected for the Environmental Quality Council (EQC). **SEN. WHEAT** said that **SEN. SHOCKLEY, SEN. MCGEE, SEN. STORY, SEN. WHEAT, SEN. LIND** and **SEN. LARSON** had been selected.

The Committee examined the possibilities for the Legislative Audit Committee. **SEN. WHEAT** explained that on the Democrat side, **SEN. ELLIOT, SEN. MOSS** and **SEN. HARRINGTON** listed Legislative Audit as their top choice.

**Motion:** **SEN. MANGAN** moved that **SEN. ELLIOTT, SEN. MOSS AND SEN. HARRINGTON BE NOMINATED TO THE LEGISLATIVE AUDIT COMMITTEE.**

**Motion/Vote:** **SEN. TOOLE** moved that **THE NOMINATIONS BE CLOSED ON THE DEMOCRATIC SIDE.** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

**Motion/Vote:** **SEN. MANGAN** moved that **THOSE NOMINATED BE ELECTED.** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

On the Republican side, **SEN. BRUEGGEMAN, SEN. BALLYEAT** and **SEN. STAPLETON** all listed Legislative Audit as their first or second choice. **SEN. WHEAT** explained that **SEN. COBB** did not have an interest in continuing to serve on this Committee.

**SEN. ELLIOTT** said that he had concerns with **SEN. BALLYEAT** being a "disruptive force" on the Committee. However, he continued, he also has concerns about treating all Senators fairly and allowing them to be on the Committees that they want. **SEN. ELLIOTT** stated that if the Committee does not feel comfortable assigning **SEN. BALLYEAT** to both the Revenue and Transportation Committee and the Legislative Audit Committee, then he would support placing him on the Legislative Audit Committee.

**SEN. RYAN** stated that it was important for the Committee on Committees to do what is best for each Committee, not necessarily what is best for the individual members.

**SEN. MANGAN** asked **SEN. WHEAT** if there were any other Republicans who listed Legislative Audit as their second choice. **SEN. WHEAT** stated that **SEN. MCGEE** had, but he is already serving on the EQC, and he listed Law and Justice as his first choice.

**SEN. MANGAN** stated that placing **SEN. BALYEAT** on Legislative Audit would be fine because he would be serving with **SEN. STAPLETON** and **SEN. BRUEGGEMAN**. Also, **SEN. ELLIOT** will be on that committee, so there will be a good balance.

**SEN. ELLIOTT** stated that he is more concerned with the members of the Committee from the House that may harm the balance. The members from the House are not yet known. He suggested waiting until the House makes nominations before selecting the members for Legislative Audit.

**SEN. WHEAT** and **SEN. MANGAN** agreed that it would be beneficial to wait.

**Motion/Vote:** **SEN. WHEAT** moved TO RECESS UNTIL FURTHER CALLED BY THE CHAIR. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 5:45 P.M.

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SEN. MIKE WHEAT, Chairman

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ANNIE GLOVER, Secretary

MW/ag

Additional Exhibits:

**EXHIBIT ([cos77aad0.TIF](#))**